

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00

FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04

TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 IO-13 SNM-02 /137 W

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R 030939Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3582

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMCONSUL MANDALAY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 1576

E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #21, MAY 18-JUNE 3, 1977

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1. SENIOR NARCOTICS DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR U.S. (CONF)

THE FOUR-MAN NARCOTICS RELATED DELEGATION OF SENIOR BURMESE OFFICIALS DEPARTED RANGOON ON JUNE 2 FOR A ONE MONTH VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. THE DELEGATION, INCLUDING U SHWE THAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL, PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE, COL. MYO AUNG, DIRECTOR, DEFENSE SERVICES INTELLIGENCE, AND COL. KO GYI, BURMA AIR FORCE AIR OPERATIONS CHIEF, WILL EXPLORE PROSPECTS FOR ADDITIONAL U.S. ASSISTANCE TO THE BURMESE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION EFFORT AND WILL VISIT VARIOUS U.S. AGENCIES TO DISCUSS AND OBSERVE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.

THE MISSION'S SEND-OFF AT MINGALADON AIRPORT PROVIDES FURTHER INDICATION OF THE SIGNIFICANCE ATTACHED TO THIS VISIT BY THE BURMESE GOVERNMENT. IN ADDITION TO THE ENTIRE AIR STAFF LED BY BRIGADIER GENERAL SAW PRU, COL. TIN OO, PRESIDENT NE WIN'S MILITARY SECRETARY AND A KEY FIGURE ON THE BURMESE POLITICAL SCENE, WAS ALSO PRESENT TO SEND THE MISSION ON ITS WAY.

2. AGREEMENTS FOR OIL RIGS AND LOAN (UNC)

ON JUNE 2 MYANMA OIL CORPORATION (MOC) OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF GARDNER-DENVER COMPANY, A U.S. FIRM, SIGNED THE CONTRACT FOR PURCHASE OF FOUR MEDIUM OIL DRILLING RIGS WORTH APPROXIMATELY \$10 MILLION (WEEK 16, ITEM 4). THIS REPRESENTS THE LARGEST SINGLE U.S. SALE TO BURMA IN OVER A DECADE. THE CONTRACT CALLS FOR TWO RIGS TO BE DELIVERED IN FEBRUARY 1978 AND TWO IN APRIL 1978. AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY MOC MANAGING DIRECTOR U KYAW ZA INDICATED HE WOULD VISIT THE U.S. IN EARLY 1978, SHORTLY BEFORE DELIVERY OF THE FIRST TWO RIGS. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, OFFICIALS FROM CHASE MANHATTAN CONFIDENTIAL

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BANK AND ALL PARTICIPATING FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WILL SIGN THE FORMAL LOAN AGREEMENT PROVIDING \$38.75 MILLION TO MOC ON JUNE 6. PART OF THE LOAN WILL BE USED TO FINANCE PURCHASE OF THE RIGS MENTIONED ABOVE.

3. BURMA ARMY ATTACKS REBELS IN CHIN HILLS (CONF)

THE PRESS REPORTED MAY 29 THAT THE BURMA ARMY HAD ATTACKED A CHIN AND ARAKANESE REBEL GROUP IN THE CHIN HILLS MAY 13-23 KILLING 38 REBELS AND CAPTURING 50, ALONG WITH GUNS AND AMMUNITION. ONE OF THE REBEL LEADERS, A CHIN NAMED "WILLIAM" WAS ALSO CAPTURED. APPARENTLY OF RIGHTIST POLITICAL ORIENTATION, THE GROUP HAD BEEN TRAINED BY THE KAREN NATIONAL UNION, A KAREN REBEL GROUP ON THE THAI BORDER, AND WERE TRYING TO RETURN TO THE CHIN HILLS/ARAKAN AREA WHEN CAUGHT BY THE BURMA ARMY. ACCORDING TO ONE LOCAL SOURCE, THE GROUP HAD PASSED THROUGH TERRITORY CONTROLLED BY THE KACHIN INDEPENDENCE ARMY ON THEIR RETURN, AND HAD RECEIVED ASSISTANCE FROM THE KIA, INCLUDING CHINESE RIFLES.

4. NE WIN AND RATANA NATME QUARREL (CONF)

IT IS NOW COMMONLY ACCEPTED IN RANGOON THAT THE DEPARTURE OF RATANA NATME, PRESIDENT NE WIN'S LATEST BRIDE, FOR SWITZERLAND (WEEKA #20, ITEM 1) WAS THE RESULT OF A QUARREL BETWEEN THE TWO AFTER THEIR RETURN FROM CHINA. SOME REPORTS HAVE IT THAT PRESIDENT NE WIN HIT RATANA NATME IN THE FACE WITH AN ASHTRAY. IN ANY EVENT, THERE ARE SIGNS THAT RATANA NATME LEFT FOR GOOD, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE ALSO RUMORS THAT PRESIDENT NE WIN IS PLANNING A TRIP TO EUROPE TO TRY TO PATCH THINGS UP.

5. SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DEPARTS; SOVIET YOUTH DELEGATION ARRIVES (UNC)

SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER N.P. FIRUBIN DEPARTED BURMA ON JUNE 1 CONCLUDING A SEVEN-DAY VISIT (WEEKA #20, ITEM 2). HOWEVER, THE DEPARTURE OF THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DID NOT MARK THE END OF OFFICIAL SOVIET VISITORS IN BURMA. ON THE SAME DAY THAT HE DEPARTED, A THREE-MEMBER SOVIET YOUTH DELEGATION ARRIVED IN RANGOON TO BEGIN AN EIGHT-DAY VISIT.

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TION ARRIVED IN RANGOON TO BEGIN AN EIGHT-DAY VISIT.

COMMENT (LOU): ACCORDING TO SOME SOURCES THE SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER INVITED HIMSELF TO BURMA, AND THERE WAS NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE DISCUSSED AT ANY OF HIS MEETINGS WITH GUB OFFICIALS.

6. CRASH OF BAF PLANE (CONF)

ON MAY 30 A BURMA AIR FORCE (BAF) SF 260 SIAI-MARCHETTI TRAINING AIRCRAFT WAS LOST IN AN EARLY MORNING CRASH WHICH CLAIMED THE LIVES OF TWO PILOTS, AN INSTRUCTOR AND A STUDENT. CAUSE OF THE CRASH IS STILL UNKNOWN. THIS REDUCED BAF'S SF 260 FLEET TO NINE AIRCRAFT.

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7. DR. BAW MAW DIES (UNCL)

DR. BAW MAW, A PROMINENT PRE-WAR ANTI-BRITISH NATIONALIST
POLITICIAN, AND THE ADIPADI, OR LEADER OF THE BURMESE PUPPET
GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED DURING THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF BURMA,
DIED MAY 29. A VERY OLD MAN, HE HAD LONG BEEN IN ILL HEALTH.
NO OFFICIAL NOICE WAS TAKEN OF HIS DEATH OR FUNERAL.

8. UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE ARRIVES (UNCL)

MR. KENNETH WATTS, A UK NATIONAL, ARRIVED IN BURMA ON
MAY 30 TO TAKE UP DUTIES AS THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE.
MR. WATTS WAS DEPUTY RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE AT CAIRO PRIOR
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TO COMING TO BURMA.

9. MONGOLIAN AMBASSADOR APPOINTED (UNCL)

THE GUB ANNOUNCED MAY 27 THAT IT HAS AGREED TO THE APPOINT-
MENT OF MR. CHULUUNBAATAR AS THE NEW MONGOLIAN AMBASSADOR TO
BURMA. MR. CHULUUNBAATAR WILL RESIDEN IN PEKING, WHERE HE IS
ALSO ACCREDITED AS AMBASSADOR TO THE PRC. THE NEW AMBASSADOR
HAS PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS COUNSELOR OF THE MONGOLIAN MISSION
TO THE U.N. AND AS COUNSELOF OF EMBASSY AT TOKYO.
OSBORN

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